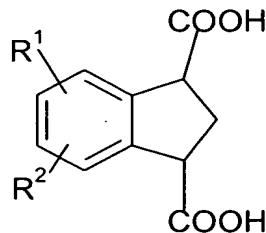


We Claim:

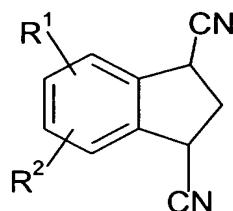
1. A process for the preparation of compounds having the formula



I

wherein R¹ and R² are selected independently from hydrogen, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, sulfonyl alkyl, alkylamino, amide, ester, aryl-alkyl, heteroalkyl, and arylalkoxy

5 comprising hydrolyzing a compound of formula



II

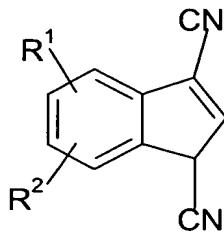
in the presence of an acid or base catalyst.

10 wherein R¹ and R² are selected independently from hydrogen, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, sulfonyl alkyl, alkylamino, amide, ester, aryl-alkyl, heteroalkyl, and arylalkoxy

15 2. The process according to claim 1 wherein said catalyst is an acid catalyst comprising a mixture of glacial acetic acid and concentrated hydrochloric acid.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein said compound is indan-1,3-dicarboxylic acid.

4. The process according to claim 1 wherein said compound of formula II is prepared by reacting a compound of the formula



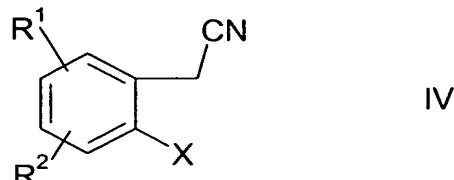
III

20

with hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst, wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-C₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, halogen, sulfonyl alkyl, alkylamino, amide, ester, aryl-alkyl, heteroalkyl, and arylalkoxy

5. The process according to claim 4, wherein said hydrogenation catalyst is palladium on carbon.

6. The process of claim 4 wherein a compound of formula III is prepared by reacting a compound of the formula



5

with 3-ethoxyacrylonitrile in the presence of a catalyst comprising tricyclohexylphosphine, palladium II acetate, and a base in a water miscible organic solvent,

10 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, halogen, sulfonyl alkyl, alkylamino, amide, ester, aryl-alkyl, heteroalkyl, and arylalkoxy and X selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine, or iodine.

7. The process according to claim 6 wherein said base is sodium t-butoxide.

8. The process according to claim 6 wherein said water miscible solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

9. The process according to claim 5, wherein said hydrogenation catalyst is 5% 15 palladium on carbon.

10. The process according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst is a base catalyst selected from the group consisting of Group I metal alkoxides, sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, and potassium hydroxide.